State/UT	Geographic Area	Forest cover	
		Area	Per cent
Mizoram	21,081	18,338	86.99
Nagaland	16,579	14,164	85.43
Orissa	155,707	47,033	30.2
Punjab	50,362	1,412	2.80
Rajasthan	342,239	13,871	4.05
Sikkim	7,096	3,118	43.94
Tamil Nadu	130,058	17,078	13.13
Tripura	10,486	5,745	57.00
Uttar Pradesh	294,411	34,016	11.55
West Bengal	88,752	8,362	9.42
A & N Islands	8,249	7,606	92.21
Chandigarh	114	7	6.14
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	202	41.14
Daman & Diu	112	3	2.68
Delhi	1,483	88	5.93
Lakshdweep	32	0	Nil
Pondicherry	493	0	Nil
TOTAL:	3,287,263	637,293	19.39

Chopping of trees in Corbett Park

3854. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 7000 trees were chopped down recently right through the heart of the Corbett Tiger Reserve, for construction of road;

(b) if so, whether the concerned department sought prior permission of the Ministry, before cutting the trees;

(c) if not, what action is contemplated against them;

(d) how Government propose to stop recurrence of such felling of trees in other reserves of the country; and

(e) whether Government would evolve any fresh guidelines, keeping in view the recent development in this area?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) According to the report furnished by the Field Director, Corbett National Park, 6841 trees were marked and felled between Pakhro and Kikri so as to clear the existing old

fire line in the Buffer Zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve. The area does not form part of National Park or Sanctuary. Since the felling is for management of the reserve forest, no prior permission of the Central Government is required. However, further felling, operations have been stopped in the area *vide* order dated 30th March, 2001 of Chief Wildlife Warden of Uttaranchal State.

Pollution in Tamil Nadu

3855. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of pollution has been increasing in Chennai and other parts of the State;

(b) if so, what are the main causes of growing pollution;

(c) the steps taken by Government to contain pollution in the State;

(d) whether any action has been taken to contain pollution in Kalpakkam Thermal Power Station;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No definate trend of increase in pollution has been observed in Chennai and other major cities of Tamil Nadu during the last couple of years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various steps taken by the Government to contain pollution in the State include the following:—

-Steps have been taken to control pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

-Environmental guidelines for siting and operation of industries have been brought out.

-Environmental clearance has been made compulsory for specified categories of developmental projects.

-Emission standards have been notified under the Environment